1-10. (CANCELED)

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An illumination device comprising:

a body member;

at least one source of light aligned along a longitudinal axis of, and lying within, the body member;

at least one transparent region of the body member through which light from the at least one source of light passes upon ~~engerization~~ energization of the at least one source of light; and

a plurality of closely packed, transparent optical particles ~~such as balls or chips of glass~~ lying in the body member and extending contiguously between the at least one source of light and a side of the at least one transparent region which is directed towards an inside of the body member.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The illumination device according to claim 11, wherein the at least one source of light is a plurality of light emitting solid state devices and the optical particles are glass balls.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The illumination device according to claim 11, wherein the body member is a tube of glass forming the sole transparent region of the body member.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The illumination device according to claim 11, wherein the optical particles are of uniform size and shape.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The illumination device according to claim 11, wherein the optical particles vary in size over a spectrum of sizes.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The illumination device according to claim 15, wherein the optical particles are of similar shape.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The illumination device according to claim 11, wherein there are a plurality of sources of light and at least one of the plurality of sources of light differs in output color from at least one other of the plurality of sources of light.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The illumination device according to claim 11, wherein an interior of the body member not occupied by the at least one source of light or the optical particles is filled with a gas or vapor, which latter term includes air, maintained at a controlled pressure relative to ambient atmospheric pressure.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The illumination device according to claim 11, wherein the body member is a sealed enclosure with conductors for electricity powering the at least one source of light passing through a wall of the enclosure by way of a gas tight seal.

20. (CANCELED)

21. (NEW) An illumination device comprising:

a body member;

at least two sources of light aligned and spaced apart on, on a longitudinal axis lying within, the body member;

one or more transparent regions of the body member through which light from each source passes when the source or sources are energized; and

transparent optical particles forming a closely packed mass of particles within the body member, the sources of light lying within the mass so that particles extend from each source of light to the one or more transparent regions of the body member;

the interior of the body member not occupied by the at least two sources of light or the optical particles being filled with at least one of air, gas or vapor, maintained at a controlled pressure relative to atmospheric pressure.

22. (NEW) The illumination device as claimed in claim 21, wherein each source of light is a light emitting solid state device and the optical particles are glass balls.

23. (NEW) The illumination device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the body member is a tube of glass forming the sole transparent region of the body member.

24. (NEW) The illumination device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the optical particles are of uniform size and shape.

25. (NEW) The illumination device as claimed in claims 21, wherein the optical particles vary in size over a spectrum of sizes.

26. (NEW) The illumination device as claimed in claim 25, wherein the optical particles are of similar shape.

27. (NEW) The illumination device as claimed in claim 21, wherein at least one of the sources differs in output color from at least one other of the sources.

28. (NEW) The illumination device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the body member is a sealed enclosure with conductors for electricity for powering the light sources passing through a wall of the enclosure by way of a gas tight seal.